



# Iowa CREP News

Issue #5 - December 12, 2012

## Iowa CREP Stats:

Wetlands Restored : 66

Total Easement Area:  
2,623 acres

Average Easement Area:  
40 acres

Total Wetland Area:  
582 acres

Average Wetland Area:  
8.8 acres

Average Wetland Depth:  
2.1 feet

Average Wetland Ratio:  
0.75%

Total Watershed Area:  
85,320 acres

Average Watershed Area:  
1,293 acres



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**Iowa CREP Wetlands in 2012:** Another busy year is underway for the Iowa CREP. 8 wetlands were restored this summer and another 4 started this fall. Counties include: Boone, Clay (2), Floyd (3), Hancock, Palo Alto, Pocahontas (2), Story, & Webster

## 2012 Site Stats:

Total Easement Area- **474 acres** (39.5 ave.) 57.6 acre max, 12.1 acre min

Wetland Area- **135 acres** (~11 acre ave.) 25.7 acre max, 3 acre min.

Watershed Area- **19,853 acres** (1,654 ave).

Wetland/Watershed %-

**0.75% ave.**

1.2% max, 0.5% min

Average Wetland Depth-

**2.1 feet**

## Wetland Seeding/Water

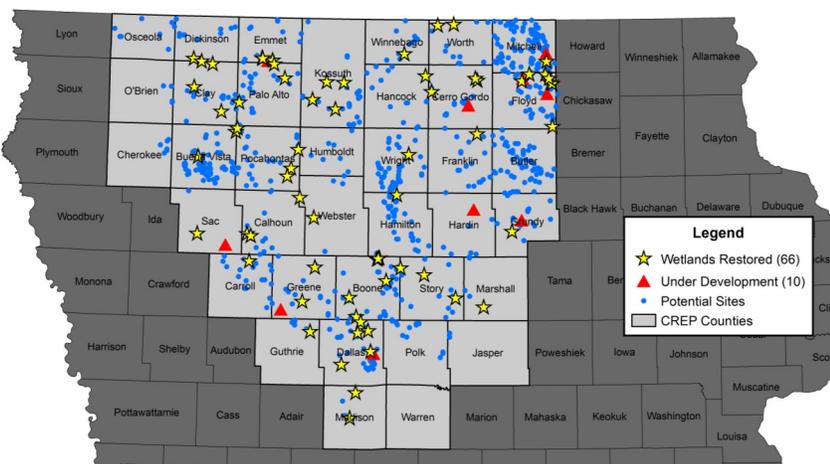
### Level Management:

A major wetland seeding effort is underway to jumpstart

the re-establishment of wetland species in Iowa CREP wetlands. Over the past several years, many wetlands have been actively managed to facilitate emergent vegetation growth. All wetlands have been inventoried for emergent vegetation and if there is a local source of seed nearby. Wetlands with less than desired wetland vegetation established will be seeded, while sites that have exhibited good emergent vegetative growth or have a seed source nearby will not.

## Links of interest:

- Water Quality Wetland Report: [Here](#)
- Iowa CREP Website: [www.iowacrep.org](http://www.iowacrep.org)
- Iowa CREP Photo Page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/iowacrep/>



**Iowa CREP Status (Dec. 2012)**



**Trumpeter Swans Nesting:** A CREP wetland in Worth County completed in 2007 has been home to a pair of trumpeter swans for over 4 years. 2011 was the first year they nested and 3 cygnets were added to the family. 2012 saw the swans returning to start adding to their family. This year there are 4 cygnets. Numerous CREP wetlands have been used by trumpeters, but this is the first confirmed nesting.

A CREP wetland in Buena Vista County has had a pair return in 2012, after making it their home in 2011. They have yet to nest, but it typically takes 2-3 years before a pair nests successfully.

The next page contains photos of more sites with Trumpeter Swans.

**Hydrologic Efficiency Measures:**

Through research and monitoring conducted on Iowa CREP wetlands by ISU, the program has started looking at incorporating additional hydrologic efficiency measures into all wetland restorations. Some wetlands have been found to exhibit preferential flow pathways which can potentially allow water to “short circuit” through the wetland. By installing under water berms and diversions the flow is more evenly dispersed throughout the wetland and residence time is increased, which increases the already impressive efficiency of the wetland to remove nitrates.

**Incorporating slow drawdowns in CREP sites:** A couple new CREP wetlands will be utilizing a new water level management approach in an effort to increase nitrate removal efficiency and increase temporary storm water storage. These sites will be exactly the same as other CREP sites, but the water control structure will be outfitted with an orifice plate that will allow a continuous slow drawdown of the water level between storm events. The goal is to provide temporary storage for storm events while maintaining nitrate reduction performance. This also has potential to help facilitate emergent vegetative growth in the wetlands by fluctuating the water level on a more frequent basis.

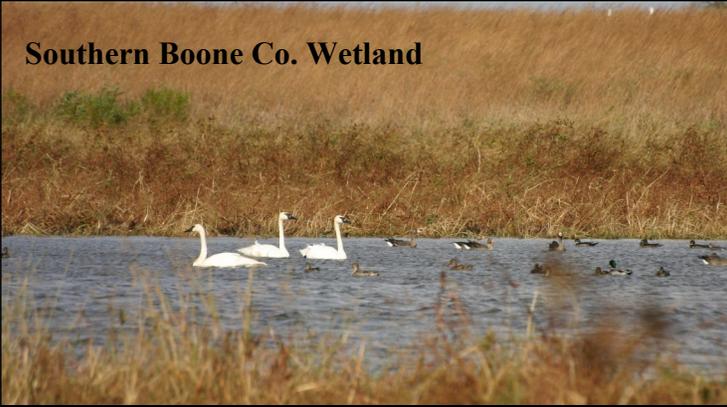


The Division of Soil Conservation is responsible for state leadership in the protection and management of soil, water and mineral resources, assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to meet their agricultural and environmental protection needs.

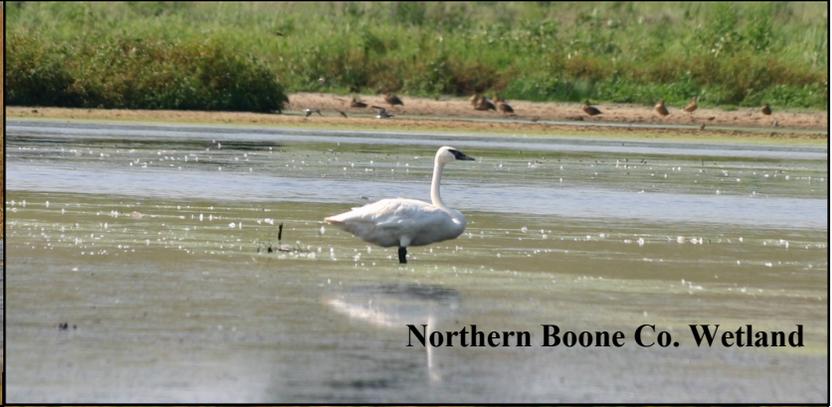
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# CREP Site Swan Photos:

**Southern Boone Co. Wetland**



**Northern Boone Co. Wetland**



**Central Buena Vista Co. Wetland**



**Story Co. Wetland**



**Story Co. Wetland**



**Cerro Gordo Co. Wetland**



**Northeastern Buena Vista Co. Wetland**



# CREP Wetland Showcase:

SE Pocahontas CREP Wetland stats:

Watershed Area = 2472 acres

Wetland Area = ~16 acres

Easement Area = 76.5 acres

Nitrate Removal (lifetime) = 1685 tons

## Before



## After



## Wildlife

